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#### **LOWEST PACKAGE ANNOUNCED**

Performing hajj under pvt agents will cost Tk 14,000 more this year

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**SOUTH MEETS NORTH** Kim Jong-un hosts a historic dinner for South Korean envoys

# Help solve the Rohingya crisis

PM tells Vietnamese president; he voices support for long-term solution; 3 MoUs signed



AGENCIES, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday sought Vietnam's support for a peaceful solution to the Rohingya crisis as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held official talks with visiting Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang.

"We have discussed the Rohingya crisis that threatens peace and stability of our region. I sought Vietnam's support for a

peaceful solution to the problem," she said.

The two countries issued a joint press statement after the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in the morning, reports BSS.

Hasina said President Quang expressed his support for a viable and long-term solution to the problem.

The two countries agreed on holding the second Foreign Office Consultation and the SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Once a supervisor at state-run Platinum Jute Mills in Khulna, Sohrab Hossain now lives on handouts. He retired in March 2015 after 36 years of service. The labour law says retirement benefits must be paid within 30 days, but the mill authorities have not cleared his dues even in three years. The photo was taken near Chitrali Bazar in Khalishpur on November 25 last year. PHOTO: MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

Reality vs labour law

### **MARCH 6, 1971**

#### Tension builds up as March 7 rally nears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With people of East Pakistan roaring for the declaration of independence, the suspense of what was to come on the March 7 rally grew. And with it, grew the angst and violence of the Pakistan govern-

Conditions were fast slipping out of the government's control in East Pakistan with the movement going forward.

On the 5th day of the movement, March 6, 1971, peaceful strike was still being observed in Dhaka. But around 11:00am, 321 prisoners broke out of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Rab still sitting on charge sheet

SANAD SAHA, Narayangani

For Taqi's parents, the last five years have been a long, agonising wait for justice. And they have no clue as to when that wait would be over.

Taqi's father Rafiur Rabbi, who had been to countless demonstrations and public events to talk about his grievances, said people in his hometown now called him Taqi'r

"Trial starts after charges are pressed in a case. But that has not happened in five years. Charges have not been That's all," he said.

Narayanganj city, around 4:00pm on March 6, 2013.

as the highest scorer in the world in physics.

the morning of March 8.

case with the same police station on the day the body was found.

tendent of police 10 days later accusing seven people, including Shamim Osman and his son Ayon Osman and 8-10 unnamed others, of murdering Tagi.

Narayanganj, Taqi's mother Rawnak Rehana remembered SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

5 YEARS INTO TAQI MURDER

Baba. It has even drowned his identity as a cultural activist.

pressed. Sometimes I call Rab officers, who are investigating the case. They tell me that the investigation is going on. Seventeen-year-old Tanwir Muhammad Taqi went miss-

ing after he had left home for Sudhijon Pathagar, a library in

His A-level results were out the next day and he emerged Taqi's body was found floating in the Shitalakkhya on

The day Taqi went missing, Rabbi filed a general dairy with Narayanganj Kotwali Police Station. He filed a murder

He submitted a complaint to the Narayanganj superin-

Sitting at her home on Shayesta Khan Road in

#### An investigation in Khulna industrial area shades light on the forgotten lives of workers In the last few years, a lot has changed in the jute sector. Production is rising and along with it the export of jute and jute goods. State-run BJMC's loss is showing a downward trend. But the fate of over 5,700 retired jute employees is still up in the air, as their five-year wait for their retirement benefits continues.

"We are not asking for any favour or more than what we are entitled to. If only they [the authorities]

Every time he extends his hands to

seek alms, Sohrab Hossain, 63, looks

embarrassed. Begging has never been

away at the state-run Platinum Jubilee

Jute Mills in Khalishpur in Khulna,

should not have needed to take up

begging, a social problem that the

government wants to eradicate from

When he retired in March 2015 as a

Sohrab, who spent 36 years toiling

knew how we suffer!" MOAZZEM HOSSAIN

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

his livelihood; it is now.

the country.

A PARALYSED WORKER, WHO RETIRED FROM PLATINUM IN 2016.



was not.

line sardar, a supervisor of about 40

workers, his retirement benefits totalled

Tk 7,50,000 -- Tk 5,24,000 in gratuity

and Tk 2,26,000 in provident fund (PF).

were to be cleared within 30 days. It

stroke left him paraplegic, bound to a

only working right hand around

Chitrali Bazar as he goes about begging.

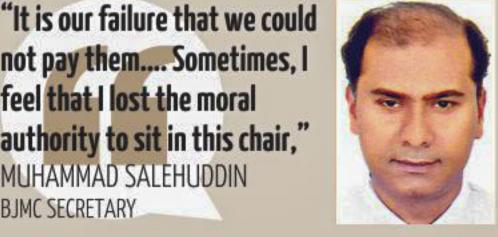
this? ... I wish I could work again, but

"Who knew life would come to

Under the labour law, all his dues

not pay them.... Sometimes, I feel that I lost the moral authority to sit in this chair," MUHAMMAD SALEHUDDIN

BJMC SECRETARY



this won't let me," he said, pointing to his partially paralysed body.

On some days, he cannot even earn enough for his food. Physiotherapy and medicine costs are out of question. Unable to cope with the sudden poverty, his wife left him about six months ago.

About two and a half years ago, a 'WHAT USE IS THE LAW?' wheelchair which he paddles with his

Sohrab is not the only one in a tight spot. Since July 2013, more than 5,700 employees of 25 jute and SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

MUHITH SEEMS TO BE ANTI-JUTE: MIRZA AZAM -- PAGE B1

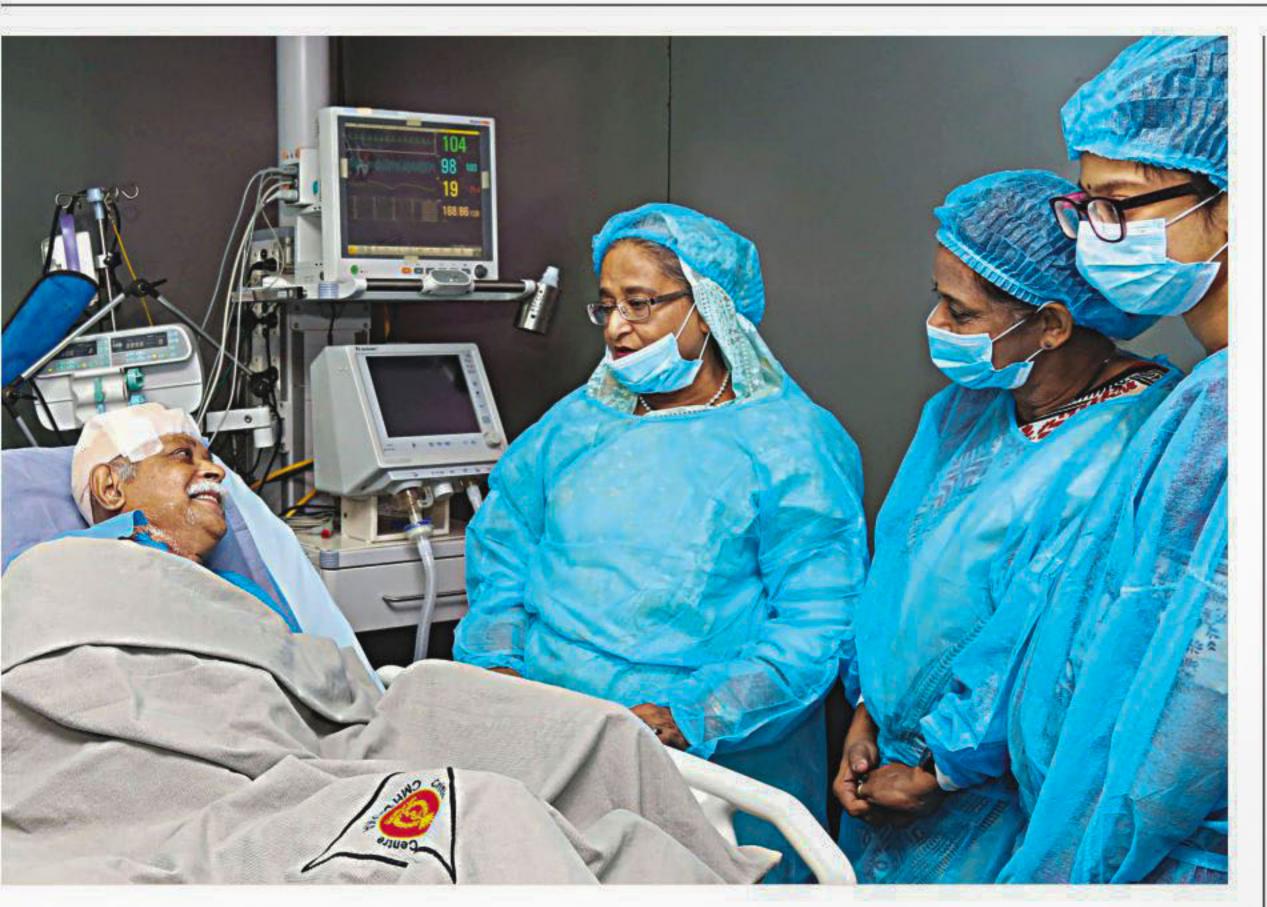


## Farmers doing their part well

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Before the growth of the textile industry, jute was once the main cash crop of Bangladesh as it was the only exportable product in the country.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka yesterday. Prof Zafar Iqbal, a faculty member of Computer Science and Engineering department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, was attacked with a knife on the campus on Saturday. PHOTO: BSS



AT Baridhara, Gulshan & Banani

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